

NSC BRIEFING

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2 March 1955

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SERIOUS CLASH ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FRONTIER

- I. Deliberate Israeli attack Egyptian border  
post 28 Feb <sup>9 days later</sup> suggests revival tougher policy  
toward Arabs linked with Ben Gurion.
- A. Attack came 10 days after Ben Gurion  
returned to cabinet as defense minister.

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- II. Change from Prime Minister Sharett's moderate  
policy may be caused growing internal  
pressure positive action. Strong sentiment  
for this among "activist" army elements.
- III. Other border incidents likely. Israel not  
expected intentionally to provoke general  
hostilities.

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IV. The current incident may have resulted in

part from Israeli anger over the recent  
Egyptian execution of alleged Israeli spies.

- A. Israel has also repeatedly insisted that  
it cannot prevent incidents from developing  
under present armistice conditions.
- B. Major incidents of this kind (which tend  
to invite counter action that blurs question  
of responsibility) are probably used by  
Israel to draw UN and especially Western  
attention to the need of forcing the Arabs  
to agree to formal peace settlements.

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